(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal anc the names of the places where su h centres are pro posed to be estabi shed?

THE MINISTER 3F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNfHI): (a) and (b) Government of Kf rnataka has established a State level Exhibition Authority and has ea marked a suitable piece of laud for putting up a perma. nent exhibition complex at Bangalore. It is taking step s to work. out the modalities of fu iding the project. Other States like Vest Bengal, U.P., Rajasthan, Mahara; htra, Tamil Nadu, J *Ss* K etc. have i lso shown interest in setting up exhil ition complexes in their capitals. The Trade Fair Autho rity of India is in t luch with all tnese States.

Forest cover in different States

1729. SHRI NARYYAN KAR: Will the Minister of EN 'IRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area und b? forest cover in different States as on 1st January$_4$ i960 and 1st January, 1987;

(b) the (pett'centa^c of for^{p}st area lost/gained during the above period due to diversion of forest land for development activit es, such as industries, rail/road, i'rn Ration, other projects and due to afiorostation; and

(c) the steps b ing taken for covering more ai £a under forest through afforestatio ı?

THE MINISTER C F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EN^ IRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI); (a) No suveys to assess the area under forest cover as on 1st January, I960 and 1st January, 1987 have been carried out.

(b) The extent o' forest area lost between th$_e$ period 1951 to I960 was 4.328 million ha., v, lereas after the promulgation of th< Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, he loss of forest area between 1980 o 1937 has been 42029.36 ha. The to al area afforested du'ring the period 1951 to 1987 was 11.45 million ha.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board has been set up in 1983 with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwaod and fodder plantations. A people's movement for afforestation is being developed.

Development of Tourist Spots in Assam

1730. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHA-KRAVARTY; Will th$_e$ Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Central Government have receive^ any proposals from the Assam Government for the development of a few tourist spots at Guwahati and Sfhibsagar;

(b) whether there is any proposai under Central Government's consideration to construct a hanging bridge connecting Guwahati and Umananda and also to construct a park at Guwa hati from Sukleshwa$_r$ to the foot-hills of Nilachal Hill; and

(c) if so, by when the proposals are likely t$_0$.be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has suggested construction ol a Yatri Niwas at Sibsagar. The State Government has been requested to send detailed proposal in this regard. The Ministry of Tourism has also received proposals for beautification of Guwahati by setting up a Park from Sukleswar to the Foot Hills of'Nilachal Hill and construction of a 'ropeway over River Brahamputra qonnecting Guwahati city with Umananda. The Ministry is in favour of development of Umananda as a tourist attraction for which it is necessary to connect Umananda with Guwahati and has, therefore, sought ' approval ,$_D$f these schemes and allocation of additional funds for the purpose.